

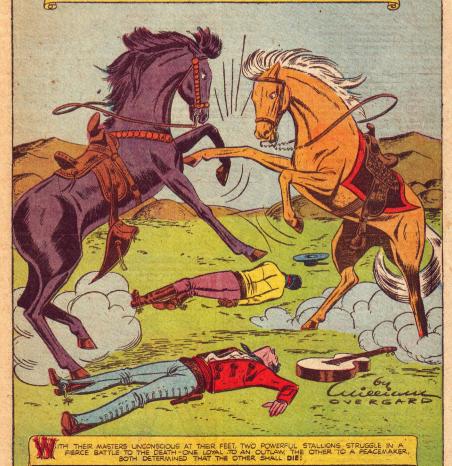




# BLACK DIAMOND

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IN A SENSE, SIR-



































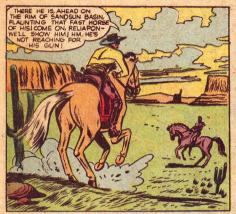


































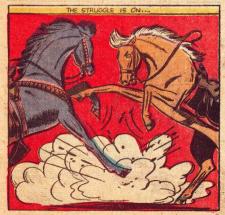






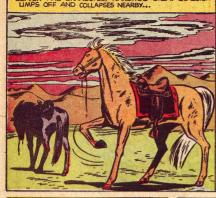








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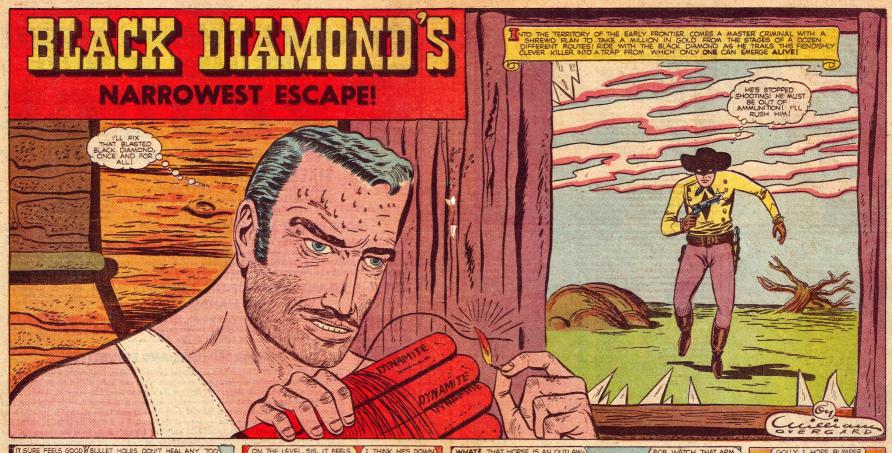
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## **WHO WAS THE BLUE CANYON BANDIT?**

THE STAGE bumped and heaved its way slowly up the long grade. The day was hot and still, and the dust that rolled up with each turn of the wheel settled unrelentingly over the three weary passengers. None of them had spoken for the last ten miles—exhaustion and heat had killed the few attempts at conversation. But there was still a nervous tension among them that seemed to extend even to the driver and the horses.

In one corner of the stage sat Henry Craighead, president of the Gold City Bank. He had been sleeping fitfully for an hour or so, but finally gave up, attempted to brush the everpresent dust from his clothes, and leaned out the window to call to the driver.

"How much longer do you figger it'll take,

Sam?"

"About four or five hours, Mr. Craighead, with any kind of luck. We'll be stopping at Mills' Post in about ten minutes to water the horses, and then we hit the Canyon." Sam's edginess was apparent in his voice. In the first place, he didn't like any part of Henry Craighead, and in the second place, he particularly didn't like having him in the stage when they were going through the Blue River Canyon. Craighead never travelled without large sums of money for his various transactions, and Sam was pretty sure that this time he was carrying the payroll for the new mill at Gold City Gulch. And the Blue River Canyon was the place the stage had been robbed four times in the last two months. The twisting gullies that led into the Canyon and the rocky formations along the river couldn't have been better planned for surprise attack and quick

As Sam urged the horses up the grade, he thought back to the robberies. Each time the technique had been the same: each time one of the passengers had ordered Sam to halt, robbed the other passengers, thrown any guns aboard into the creek, and made his escape on a horse tethered down near the river bed. After each robbery, the company had provided a guard to ride with Sam for the next few days, but nothing would happen when he was along. Obviously the thief knew when there was to be a guard aboard, and more important, he atways seemed to know when there was a likelihood of a good haul. The one thing that baffled Sam was that each time the job had been pulled by a different person. Either it was stretching coincidence to the breaking point, or else the thief was a master of disguise.

"Well," he thought, none of the passengers in this load would pull a a deal like that!" Certainly not Craighead—he was the one who stood to lose, and anyway his wits worked their harm in mortgages and shady trading deals—not in daylight robberies that demanded nerve and skill. Miss Lucy Thorne certainly could be counted out. She'd been the schoolteacher at

Gold City for a year now, and there was nobody so proper or well-liked. And as for the third passenger, a stranger named Harvey Pecker—why a cheap, flashy boomer like him couldn't even hold his own on a horse, much less hold up the stage!

"Hey, folks! We're comin' to Mills' Post", hollered Sam, "You can rest for ten minutes before

we start the last stretch."

He reined in the horses and braked the stage in front of Old Man Mills' dilapidated store. Pecker, a salesman, stepped down from the stage, straightening his rumpled, checked suit and adjusting the gaudy glass pin that kept his tie in place. He held the door open and helped Miss Lucy down.

"Watch your step there, ma'am! It's a bit loose,

and ...

"Oh, I'm slipping!" And Miss Lucy fell in a muddle of scarves, veils, and skirts, carrying Mr. Pecker down with her. With apologies and embarrassed murmurs, the two disentangled themselves and rose.

"Oh, Mr. Pecker! I'm so sorry! And look at your suit—the buttons were ripped clean off in the fall!" said Miss Lucy. "Give me your coat. I have needle and thread in my reticule and I

can fix them in a minute."

"No-I mean, thank you-but-" mumbled Pecker, as he quickly pulled his coat about him. But he hadn't done it quickly enough. Sam had seen something that changed his whole opinion of the salesman. It was a pair of shoulder holsters, each with a revolver in it!

"Well, I'll be "thought Sam. "Come to think of it, his hands don't look like a salesman's-and the way he got up showed a lot more ginger than I would have given him credit for. I wonder why,I'll bet he's the Blue Canyon

Bandit!'

"Hey, Sam, have you got room in the stage for Marshal Higgins?" cried Old Man Mills. Sam turned and replied, "Sure, there's plenty of room, especially for a U. S. Marshal. I sure am glad to see you!"

"What's your trouble?" asked Higgins,

"I've been runnin' this stage for the last year, and four times we've been held up. I've gotta hunch we're in for trouble up the Canyon, and I'm mighty sure I know who's goin' to start it!" Sam proceeded to tell Marshal Higgins his suspicions about the salesman. ". just take another look at him. He talks like a boomer—and looks like a boomer—but there's something about him that just doesn't jell. I've got half a mind to refuse to let him go on with us, Marshal."

"Don't do that," said Higgins. "You and me together can handle him, no matter what he tries to pull. If he is the Blue Canyon Bandit, this is as good a time as any to put a stop to his shenani-

gans. When do we start?"

"Right about now, if we're going to his Gold

City by dark—and get through the Canyon before dusk," said Sam. "I'll get the others together."

Marshal Higgins sauntered over to where the three were standing and introduced himself to Miss Lucy, then to the salesman and Henry Craighead. "It's a pretty hor day for travellin"," Higgins drawled. His gaze turned sharply toward Harvey Pecker. "An' I hope there won't be any delays between here and Gold City, Mr.— Mr.— what did you say your name was, parmer?"

Pecker's eyes narrowed in a barely discernible movement, and only the Marshal noticed the split-second hesitation before the salesman replied, "Pecker—Harvey Pecker—travellin' out of Kansas City, for Walker and Company."

"To be sure-Pecker," said the Marshal. He turned to Miss Lucy and assisted her into the stagecoach, followed by the two remaining pas-

sengers.

As the stagecoach rolled on its way, the occupants, now refreshed by their brief stop at Mills' Post, began discussing the countryside and people, weather and politics. Bit by bit, the Marshal took over the conversation, leading it into channels of law enforcement and crimes. As he recounted one story after another of desperadoes he had known and of daring deeds he had heard of, he watched Pecker closely. The salesman, who was seated directly across from the Marshal and beside Henry Craighead, had little to add to the conversation, but he sat tense and expectant in the corner, watching Higgins more than listening to him. The tension between the two mounted, until even Miss Lucy and Craighead, ignorant of the cause of the crisis, were jumpy and nervous.

The coach creaked and swayed its way along the twisting canyon road. The settling sun made the shadows long and deep. Sam rode with his gun cocked and ready, his nervous gaze ranging each side of the road. He tried to hear what was going on inside the coach, but the racking and bumping of the wheels and the clatter of hooves made it impossible. Suddenly a shot rang out from inside the coach! Sam reined in the horses and pulled the brake. He leaned over from his seat to look down into the window of the coach, but the minute he came within eye-view of the interior, something hit him on the head and knocked him cold. He tumbled from the seat to

the ground, unconscious.

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Ten minutes later Sam came to—in a hurry! A torrent of freezing water was dashed in his face and ran down over his shirt.

"Hey! What the . . ." he spluttered. Then, as he opened his eyes he gasped "Pecker! The Blue Canyon Bandit! Well, I was right — right as rain! What d'ya want with me? And what did you do with the Marshal?"

"Which one?" said Mr. Craighead. "Mr. Pecker here—or the phony one that's tied up in the stagecoach. That's where your Blue Canyon bandit is—thanks to Marshal Pecker!"

"Well, can you tie that!" exclaimed Sam. "And

here I had you pegged as the bandit, Pecker! For Pete's sake, tell me what happened! And what hit me?"

"I'm sorry about that, Sam!" said Pecker, "I had to do it, though, because I wasn't sure whether you were in cahoots with Higgins or not. In the first place, I've been patrolling the Blue River Canyon for a month now, waiting for the bandit to tether his horse in this section again. This morning I saw Higgins ride in here from South Gulch, leading a spare horse. He hitched him to a boulder down there by the river. I was sure he was our man, but you can't arrest a guy for leaving a horse in a suspicious place."

"Well, why didn't you let the company know so we could put guards on?" asked Sam.

"Because I knew that the bandit had information from somebody mixed up in the stagecoach company—either you or Old Man Mills. If a guard came along on the coach, the bandit wouldn't try the job today," said Pecker. "Anyway, I hotfooted it down to Ridge Creek, borrowed this outfit so I'd look like a bona fide passenger, and caught the coach. That's about all there is to it, except for taking Higgins into jail and questioning Old Man Mills."

"That's not all there is to it," said Miss Lucy.
"You should have seen him when that Higgins
first drew his gun. Mr. Pecker kicked the gun
out of his hand like lightning. He knocked the
bandit cold, then swung around and clipped you
on the head with the butt of the gun. Goodness,
it all happened so fast I still haven't caught my
breath. We certainly are grateful to you, Marshal. I don't know how to thank you!"

"Nor I!" Mr. Craighead joined in. "I have pretty nearly ten thousand dollars in cash on me—the payroll for the crew that's building the

Gold City Mill."

"Incidentally, Sam," said Pecker, "you'll be interested to know that Higgins is the one responsible for all the various robberies. He tipped his own hand on that one, by telling us stories of various crimes. Most of them were his ownand he naturally knew more details about the cases than even a marshal would know, including the size of the loot and the route of escape. In fact, it provided me with some clues for several unsolved robberies. His cleverness at disguise has fooled more than just you, Sam. The charges against him will keep him in the jug for a good long time to come."

"That's all right with me!" Sam said, mounting the driver's seat once more, "Even if it did cost me a bump on the head and a dousing. Well, let's get on, folks. I'm anxious to get this surprise package to the Gold City jail.before night."

Pecker checked the bonds on the still-unconscious Higgins, then helped Miss Lucy and Craighead into the coach. "Goodnight, everybody. No hard feelings, Sam. I'll pick up Higgins' horse and follow you into town. Take good care of that new passenger of yours. He's going to be mighty surprised when he wakes up to find the tables have been turned on him." THE END

# SURE AS SHOOTIN' CLAUL



ONE OF THE EARLY PIONEERS OF THE WEST
SAID THAT THE SIZE OF THE KANSAS MOSQUITO
HAD BEEN TERRIBLY EXAGGERATED—
NONE WAS AS LARGE AS A TURKEY—
THE BIGGEST ONES WERE NO LARGER THAN CROWS

C.H. MOORE



WAS ACCUSED BY
ART ROGERS OF STEALING A PAIR OF LEGGINGS

- TAKEN TO COURT, PEDRO WAS FOUND GULLTY,
AND FINED 3 OUNCES OF GOLD! THE JUDGE
ALSO FINED ART ROGERS I OUNCE OF GOLD
FOR BOTHERING THE COURT WITH SUCH A
MINOR COMPLAINT! (Softhern California)



A HUGE SOLID ROCK OF GRANITE. 153 FT. HIGH AND 4650 FT. IN CIRCUMFERENCE. STOOD AS A LANDMARK TO GUIDE THE TRAVELERS WEST - 7HIS STRANGE ROCK STOOD ALONE ON THE DESERT SANDS AT LEAST 6 MILES FROM THE NEAREST MOUNTAIN RANGE



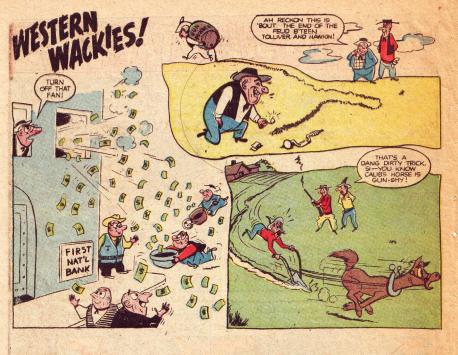
THE PIONEERS MADE LEATHER BOOTS

BOOTS FOR CATTLE WERE MADE OF LEATHER AND SMEARED WITH GREASE AND TAR TO MAKE THEM WATERPROOF, PROTECTING THEIR HOOFS FROM THE MUD AND HOT DESERT SAND!



ASH HOLLOW HOTEL — Nebraska—
THE WALLS OF THIS CRUDE DESERT HOTEL WERE COVERED
WITH LETTERS-ADVERTISEMENTS—LOST AND FOUND NOTICES—
ALL TACKED THERE FOR OTHERS TO READ AS THEY CAME WEST!

POLITICIANS IN
California -1860VOTED THEMSELVES
A SALARY OF \$6000 
A YEAR. — THEM GAVE
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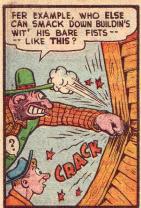






HMM! I IMAGINED WOT!? IF
YOU'D LOOK A YUH THINK!
LOT TOUGHER DON'T LOOK
THAN YOU DO,
MCBLAST! MEBBE YUH'D LIKE
TO SEE HOW TOUGH







































## BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

### Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead . . . according to men and girls popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's good might!"

Or can you blame the girl who comfesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you - are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are . . . and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them . . . "if they want to!

#### "He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he man" . . . super at track, games, sports of all kinds . . who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to ganywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is:

#### **Even Cute Girls Become Careless**

Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybel And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!

#### TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon
as you see it—with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't
squeeze. That may mean infection,
injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be guick! And be
safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!



#### NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless . . . . fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores ... make your skin look grimy and dingy give others such a wrong impression

of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it - quickly! - without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear

this new scientific way. Without painful squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germy fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out!

Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACU-TEX - now!

RUSH COUPON NOW

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ACTUAL

LENGTH

3 42"

Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only \$1.00 just postage. Ur save all postage by enclosing \$1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hatter blackheads this new quick hatter blackheads this new quick gur year seum ALU E.





Just place VACUTEX over blackheadrelease extractor—and blackhood's outl

### 10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

BALLCO PRODUCTS COMPANY, Dept. B 303 19 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.

- Enclosed find \$1.00. Send me VACUTEX postpaid
- Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman \$1.00 plus My dollar will be refunded if I am not delighted;

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SORRY NO C.O.D. OUTSIDE OF U.S.A.

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COVER ENTIRE HEAD . . . LAST FOR YEARS . . . SO LIFELIKE PEOPLE GASP WITH AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT...

Mold-Art Rubber Masks are molded from best grade natural flexible rubber. They cover the entire head. Yet you see thru the "eyes." The mouth moves with your lips . . . you breathe ... smoke ... talk ... even eat thru it. Handpainted for realism. Wonderful for every dressup occasion-for parties or gifts. Fun for children and adults alıke.

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Prod )

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IDIOT MONKEY LADY KILLER CLOWN OLD MAN OLD LADY 4 EYES
TRAMP SATAN BLACK FACE MONSTER MAN SOPHISTICATED LADY All masks above are \$2.95 each MICKEY MOUSE MINNIE MOUSE DONALD DUCK at \$3.95 each Special Santa Claus at \$4.95

SEND NO MONEY!

Just mail coupon. ORDER MASKS BY NAME as listed in this ad. All masks priced \$2.95 except Santa Claus (\$4.95) and Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and Donald Duck (at \$3.95 each), When package arrives pay postman the price plus C.O.D. postage (we pay postage if cash is sent with order). Sanitary laws prohibit return of worn masks. All Masks guaranteed perfect.

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6044 Avandale Avenue, Dept.394L, Chicago 31, Illinois

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his goofiness. People howl with laughter when you put on this life-like mask.

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MONKEY \$2.95

Dept. 394L, Chicage 31, Ill. Send me the Masks checked B

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- ☐ Clown ☐ Old Man ☐ Old Lady
- 4 Eyes Tramp Satan
- ☐ Black Face ☐ Monster Man Sophisticated Lady
- ☐ Mickey Mouse Minnie Mouse ☐ Donald Duck

☐ Santa Claus.

NAME (Print Plainly) STREET

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Movie projector with 50 ft. of Cowboy Film, Sell one order of Xmas Packs plus \$3.50.

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Every year thousands of Boys and Girls not these swell prizes for themselves and gifts for Mother and Dad Many prizes shown here and over 20 others in our Rig Prize Rook are GIVEN WITHOUT A CENT OF COST for celling 40 Ymas Packs at 10c each Some of the hinner prizes require extra money as stated in the Ria Prize Rook

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HI BOB, THAT
BUT DON'T THE

THEY DO -BUT THIS ONE DIDN'T COST ME A CENT.



I SOLD XMAS PACKS



GEE, IT REALLY I'M PROUD OF YOU BOTH WAS FASY! OUR PRIZES CAME ALREADY HERE IS A GIFT FOR YOU

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Lancaster, Pa. Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 40 Xmas Packs. I will resell them at 10c each, send you the money, and get my prize.

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TO GET THESE

FINE PRIZES

